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C. Sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world (paras. 76-99)

(Section IV (Global Plan of Action: Strategies for Implementation) of the draft Habitat agenda)

Text submitted by Working Group II on the basis of negotiations held on document A/CONF.165/PC.3/4

C. Sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world

1. Introduction

76. Rapid urbanization, the concentration of urban population in large cities, the sprawl of cities into wider geographical areas and the rapid growth of mega-cities are among the most significant transformations of human settlements. By the year 2000 more than half of the world's population will live in urban areas, and approximately 40 per cent of them will be children. Urban areas will strongly influence the world of the twenty-first century, and urban and rural populations will be increasingly interdependent for their economic and social well-being. Among the economic and social factors influencing this process are population growth and voluntary and involuntary migration, real and perceived employment opportunities, cultural expectations, changing consumption and production patterns and serious imbalances and disparities among regions.

77. The sustainability of the global environment and human life will not be achieved unless, among other things, human settlements in both urban and rural areas are made economically buoyant, socially vibrant and environmentally sound, with full respect for cultural, religious and natural heritage and diversity. Urban settlements hold a promise for human development and for protection of the world's natural resources through their ability to support large numbers of people while limiting their impact on the natural environment. Yet, many cities are witnessing harmful patterns of growth, of production and consumption of land use and of mobility, and of degradation of their physical structure. Such problems are often synonymous with soil, air and water pollution, waste of resources and destruction of natural resources. Some human settlements are also subject to limited water supply, sanitation and drainage, and to dependency upon toxic and non-renewable energy fuel sources and irreversible loss of bio-diversity. Many of these trends are aggravated or accelerated by high population growth and the magnitude of rural-to-urban migration. [Demographic factors, combined with poverty and lack of access to resources [[in some areas]] and excessive consumption and wasteful production patterns in others/unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, particularly in industrialized countries, cause or exacerbate problems of environmental degradation and resource depletion and thus inhibit sustainable development.] Therefore, a largely urbanized world implies that sustainable development will depend very largely on the capacity of urban and metropolitan areas to manage the production and consumption patterns and the transport and waste disposal systems needed to preserve the environment.

77 bis. The municipal level of government can be an effective partner in making human settlements viable, equitable and sustainable, since its level of administration is closest to the people. Governments must recognize the essential role of local authorities in providing services and empowering people to secure economic development, social welfare and environmental protection for their communities, and the role of international cooperation among local authorities. Local authorities can construct, operate and maintain economic, social and environmental infrastructure, oversee planning processes, establish local environmental policies and assist in implementing national and subnational environmental policies. They play a vital role in educating and mobilizing

people and in responding to public demands to promote sustainable development. [Agenda 21 emphasizes the need for local authorities to work in cooperation with organizations, major groups and stakeholders in their communities to promote and implement effective strategies for sustainable development].

[77 ter. Given the magnitude of the challenges that human settlements pose, society must value and take advantage of the wisdom, knowledge and skills of every person. Sustainable human settlements development requires cooperative and complementary actions among stakeholders. The mix of stakeholders appropriate for participation may be different in each instance, depending on who has responsibility for or is affected by the topic being addressed. As a general matter, stakeholders include women and men of all ages, Governments at the appropriate level, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, business labour and environmental organizations].

77 quart. At the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the international community agreed on a set of objectives and actions aimed at promoting sustainable human settlements development. Chapter 7 of Agenda 21 developed the concept of an "enabling approach" in the human settlements sector, whereby a partnership among the public, private and community sectors sought to improve the social, economic and environmental quality of human settlements and the living and working environments of all people, in particular the urban and the rural poor. Particular emphasis was given to participation in the decision-making process by community groups, women, indigenous people, the elderly and people with disabilities.

78. In the process of urbanization, policies and programmes for the sustainable development of human settlements in both rural and urban areas require strong subnational governmental institutions working in partnership with all stakeholders. Such institutions are still weak in many countries, and their effectiveness is threatened by increasing problems of political regionalism and ethnic strife. All of these concerns and demand require a regional and cross-sectoral approach to human settlements planning which places emphasis on rural/urban linkages and treats villages and cities as two ends of a human settlements continuum in a common ecosystem.

79. Increasingly, cities have a network of linkages that extend far beyond their boundaries. [Sustainable urban development should consider the carrying capacity of the entire ecosystem supporting such development, including the mitigation of adverse environmental impacts occurring outside urban areas. The unsafe disposal of waste leads to the degradation of the natural environment: aquifers, coastal zones, ocean resources, wetlands, natural habitats, forests and other fragile ecosystems are affected, as are the homelands of the indigenous people. [Trade in hazardous waste and substances should [not] be carried out/in accordance with relevant international agreements by parties to those agreements]. Rapid urbanization in coastal areas is causing the rapid deterioration of coastal and marine ecosystems.

80. The diversity of types of human settlements is a key to creating just and sustainable societies. The living and working conditions in all human settlements, including regional urban centres, rural service centres, rural hamlets, rural communities, market towns and villages, must be improved, with

particular emphasis on shelter, social and physical infrastructure, and services. The maintenance and the development of rural settlements require sustainable agriculture and forestry activities and improved agricultural technologies, economic diversification, and expanded employment opportunities created by encouraging appropriate and environmentally sustainable investment in industry and related economic production and service activities.

80 bis. Governments, particularly at the municipal level, should form partnerships with non-governmental organizations, the private sector and citizens, for the purpose of securing economic development, social welfare and environmental protection for local communities. Consistent with local needs and conditions, such efforts should include improving human settlements management, encouraging the sustainable development of intermediate cities that create employment opportunities for unemployed rural labour, and providing environmental infrastructure.

81. International cooperation, including city-to-city cooperation is necessary and mutually beneficial in promoting sustainable human settlements development. Depending on the context and needs of the cities, towns and villages in each country and region, special attention should be paid to the most critical issues, such as changing production and consumption patterns; energy efficiency; sustainable resource and land-use management; [poverty eradication; population and health; water supply, sanitation and waste management; disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and management; cultural and historical heritage; environmental protection; industry; infrastructure; and basic services such as health and education facilities. Habitat II provides an opportunity to focus on the effect that current patterns of human settlements development will have on our ability to achieve the objectives established at recent United Nations conferences. Close attention to trends in urban development is essential to the viability of sustainable human settlements development in rural and urban areas alike.

2. Sustainable land use

82. Land is essential for the provision of food, water and energy for many living systems; it is critical to human activity. In rapidly growing urban areas, access to land is rendered increasingly difficult by the potentially competing demands of housing, industry, commerce, infrastructure, transport, agriculture and the need for open spaces and green areas, and the protection of fragile ecosystems. The raising costs of urban land and other factors prevent the poor and other vulnerable and disadvantaged groups from gaining access to suitable land, whose location does not pose economic, environmental or health risks to the residents because of its proximity to industrial facilities or susceptibility to natural disasters. Bringing the development of urban areas into harmony with the natural environment and the overall system of settlements is one of the basic tasks to be undertaken in achieving a sustainable urbanized world. The tools for achieving a physically more balanced development include not only specific urban and regional policies and legal, economic, financial, cultural and other measures, but also innovative methods of urban planning and design and of urban development, renewal and management. National, subnational and local policies and problems need to be integrated. [The precautionary

principle/approach and the use of environmental and social impact assessment are essential].

[82 bis. Land use is closely related to water resource management because of the critical need to protect aquifers and other fresh-water resources from the harmful effects of human settlements. Special attention should be paid to guiding potentially hazardous activities away from the fragile areas. Oceans should be protected from land-based sources of pollution, where appropriate.]

83. Many cities are using peripheral land for urban-related purposes in a wasteful manner while existing serviced land and infrastructure may not be adequately developed and used. To avoid unbalanced, unhealthy and unsustainable growth of human settlements, it is necessary to promote land-use patterns that minimize transport demands, save energy and protect open and green spaces. Appropriate urban density and mixed land-use guidelines are of prime importance for urban development. National, subnational and local policies and development plans must be carefully re-examined to ensure optimal land use and geographically better balanced economic development, including the protection of indispensable agricultural land; land that sustains biodiversity, water quality and groundwater recharge; fragile areas, including coastal areas; and other sensitive areas in need of protection.

83 bis. Green spaces and vegetation cover in urban and peri-urban areas are essential for biological and hydrological balance and economic development. Vegetation creates natural habitats and permits a better absorption of rainwater by natural means, which implies savings in water management. Green areas and vegetation also play an important part in reducing air pollution and in creating more suitable climatic conditions, thereby improving the living environment in cities. Healthy and environmentally sound agricultural activities and the provision of common land should be integrated into the planning of urban and peri-urban areas.

Actions

84. Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities and other stakeholders, with the support of the relevant international and regional institutions, should support the efforts of human settlements to establish sustainable urban land-use patterns and planning and, to that end, should:

(a) Establish, as appropriate, legal frameworks to facilitate the development and implementation, at the national, subnational and local levels, of public plans and policies for sustainable urban development and rehabilitation, land utilization, housing, and the improved management of urban growth;

(a bis.) Encourage the development and implementation of subnational and local land-use plans;

(b) Promote efficient and accessible land markets that are responsive to demand and meet community needs;

(c) Develop, where appropriate, fiscal incentives and land-use control measures, including land-use planning solutions for a more rational and sustainable use of limited land resources;

(d) Focus greater attention on meeting the capital investment requirements of human settlements through resource mobilization strategies and policies that facilitate greater flows of private investment in urban development in locations that contribute to sustainable land-use patterns;

(e) Encourage partnerships among the public, private and voluntary sectors and other stakeholders in managing land resources for sustainable urban development;

[(e bis.) Promote urban planning, housing and industrial siting initiatives that discourage the siting of hazardous industrial facilities in residential area;]

[(e ter.) Seek to prevent or minimize pollution and exposure to pollution from industrial facilities, while also promoting urban planning, housing and industrial siting initiatives that discourage the disproportionate siting of polluting industrial facilities in areas inhabited by poor people or members of other vulnerable and disadvantaged groups;]

(f) Develop and support the implementation of improved land-management practices that deal comprehensively with competing urban land requirements for housing, industry, commerce, infrastructure, transport, green spaces and forested areas, taking into account the need of spaces for everyday activities such as playgrounds, parks, sports and recreation areas and areas suitable for gardening and urban agriculture;

(g) Promote the integration of land-use and transport planning to encourage development patterns that reduce transport demand;

(g bis.) Develop and implement integrated coastal zone management plans to ensure the proper development and conservation of coastal resources;

(h) Promote the use of tools and the development of capacities for transparent urban monitoring and reporting activities based on appropriate indicators for the environmental, social and economic performance of cities;

(i) Institutionalize a participatory approach to sustainable human settlements through the development and support of strategies and mechanisms that encourage open and inclusive dialogue among all stakeholders, with special attention to the needs and priorities of women, minorities, children, youth, people with disabilities, older persons and persons living in poverty and exclusion;

(j) Promote best practices for community-based land management in human settlements;

(k) Strengthen capacities in integrated environmental management.

85. To develop and support improved and integrated land-management, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should:

(a) Develop integrated land information and mapping systems;

[(b) Consider, as appropriate, establishing local structures, such as commissions and tribunals for the enforcement of land management laws and regulations in order to make enforcement and appeals more efficient and effective;]

[(c) Develop the land market through the establishment of an effective and environmentally sound legal framework in order to mobilize/which encompasses lands with diverse tenure systems];

(d) Develop, with the participation of all stakeholders, comprehensive and environmentally sound land-use strategies at the local level.

3. Eradication of poverty [, social development] and creation employment

86. Promoting equitable, socially viable and stable human settlements is inextricably linked to reducing and eventually eradicating poverty. The concerns of the International Decade for the Eradication of Poverty are shared by the international community, which also acknowledges [the increasing feminization of poverty]. Poverty has various manifestations which include homelessness and inadequate housing. The eradication of poverty requires, inter alia, sound macroeconomic policies aimed at creating employment opportunities, equal and universal access to economic opportunities (and special efforts to facilitate such access for the disadvantaged); education and training that will promote sustainable livelihoods through freely chosen productive employment and work, and basic social services, including health facilities. However, there are no universal solutions that can be applied. People living in poverty must be empowered through freely chosen participation in all aspects of political, economic and social life. Other key elements of a poverty reduction strategy include policies geared to [reducing inequalities, increasing opportunities, and providing access to resources and income;] providing social protection for those who cannot support themselves; recognizing the special needs and skills of women; developing human resource; improving accessible infrastructure including communication facilities; and [taking comprehensive national responsibility for meeting] the basic needs of all.

Actions

87. To promote [equitable] the provision of services in human settlements, Governments at the appropriate level, including local authorities, should:

[(a) Formulate and implement integrated settlement development policies which ensure equal access to and maintenance of basic services, including those related to the provision of food security; education; employment and livelihood; primary health-care, including reproductive and sexual health care and services; safe drinking water and sanitation; adequate shelter; and access to open and

green spaces; giving special priority to the needs and rights of women and children who often bear the greatest burden of poverty;]

(b) Where appropriate, re-direct public resources to encourage community-based management of services and infrastructure and promote the participation of the private sector and local residents, including people living in poverty, women, people with disabilities, indigenous people and members of disadvantaged groups, in the identification of public service needs, spatial planning and the design, provision and maintenance of urban infrastructure and open and green spaces.

88. To promote social integration, Governments at the appropriate level, including local authorities, recognizing the importance of volunteer contributions and in close cooperation with non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, the cooperative sector and public and private foundations, should:

(a) Prohibit [all] discriminatory, exclusionary practices related to shelter, employment and access to social/cultural facilities;

(b) Offer opportunities and physical spaces to encourage positive interaction among culturally diverse groups;

(c) Involve marginalized and/or disadvantaged groups and individuals in the planning, decision-making, monitoring and assessment related to human settlements development;

[(d) Encourage, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, the development of school curricula geared to conscious understanding and cooperation among diverse cultural groups.]

89. Urban and rural poverty and unemployment represent severe constraints for human settlements development. In order to combat poverty, Governments, at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders, including workers' and employers' organizations, should:

(a) Stimulate productive employment opportunities that generate income sufficient to achieve an adequate standard of living for all people, while ensuring equal employment opportunities and wage rates for women and encouraging the location of employment opportunities near and in the home, particularly for women in poverty and people with disabilities;

(a bis.) Safeguard the basic rights and interests of workers and, to this end, promote respect for the relevant International Labour Organization conventions; in particular, pursue the goal of ensuring quality jobs, improve policies that reduce environmental health hazards and provide the informal sector and all workers with accessible information on how to enhance occupational safety and reduce health risks;

(b) Promote, where appropriate, cost-effective labour-intensive investments and methods to provide, rehabilitate and maintain settlement infrastructure and services;

(c) Promote contracting and procurement that, as appropriate, facilitate the involvement of the local private sector, including small business and contractors, and, when appropriate, the informal sector and the community sector in the provision of basic public goods and services;

(c bis.) Ensure that people living in poverty have access to productive resources, including credit, land, education and training, technology, knowledge and information, as well as to public services, and that they participate in decision-making in a policy and regulatory environment that would enable them to benefit from employment and economic opportunities;

(d) Promote access to credit and innovative banking alternatives to women and to those living in poverty, including those who work in the informal sector, family enterprises and small-scale enterprises;

(e) Promote and strengthen productive enterprises, including micro-enterprises and small-scale private and cooperative sector enterprises and expand market and other employment and training opportunities for women, men and youth, including people with disabilities and, where appropriate, strengthen the linkages between the informal and the formal sector;

(e bis.) Promote, where appropriate, timely access of the unemployed, particularly persons living in poverty, to education and vocational training;

(f) Establish and strengthen programmes designed to improve project management skills for community-based and non-governmental organizations, including youth organizations, at the community and local levels, including needs assessment, project setting and design, financial management, project implementation and impact assessment, monitoring and evaluation;

(g) Encourage the establishment of community-based organizations, private voluntary organizations and other non-governmental organizations that contribute to efforts to reduce poverty;

(h) Promote public awareness of job opportunities through the mass media.

90. In order to promote gender-sensitive planning and management of human settlements, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, in collaboration with women's groups and other stakeholders, should:

(a) Adopt, where appropriate, by-laws, standards and norms and develop planning guidelines that take into consideration the needs and situations of women and men, and girls and boys in relation to human settlements planning, development and decision-making, and in the provision of and access to basic services, including public transportation, health and educational facilities;

(a bis.) Consider in the planning process that women are often involved in the informal sector and use their homes for business or market activities;

(b) Promote representative structures, while ensuring women's full [and equal opportunities for] participation;

(c) Develop policy guidelines and programmes that encourage and actively pursue the involvement of women's groups in all aspects of community development related to environmental infrastructure and the provision of basic urban services and encourage women's own cooperatives, as well as their membership in other cooperatives;

(c bis.) Recognize that women, as primary family caregivers, spend a greater proportion of time in the home and community [and, therefore, as experts in their own home and community, should participate fully and equally in all aspects of community development, especially environmental infrastructure and basic services];

(c ter.) Foster economic policies that have a positive impact on the employment and income of women workers in both the formal and informal sectors and adopt specific measures to address women's unemployment, in particular their long-term unemployment;

(d) Eliminate legal and customary barriers, where they exist, to women's equal access to and control of land and finance;

(e) Promote equal access to all levels of education for girls and women;

(e bis.) Establish programmes that address the severe poverty found among rural women, focusing on their need for adequate shelter and employment;

(f) Generate and disseminate disaggregated data, while ensuring that such statistics are collected, compiled, analysed and presented by age and sex; set up monitoring mechanisms in government structures, and integrate the results into mainstream policies for sustainable human settlements development;

[(f bis.) Enhance community awareness of issues facing homeless and refugee women, especially those issues related to physical and sexual abuse, and design appropriate community responses;]

[(g) Ensure equal access to housing, land and public services in the urban and rural areas in line with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.]

[90 bis. In order to develop the full potential of the youth and prepare them to take a responsible role in the development of human settlements, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities and in partnership with private sector, non-governmental youth organizations and other non-governmental organizations as well as community-based organizations, should:

[(a) Integrate youth concerns into all relevant national subnational and local policies, strategies, programmes and projects;

[(a bis.) Enable youth by supporting and valuing their ability to play an active and creative role in building sustainable communities;

[(b) Provide equal access to basic education, while paying special attention to the poor and to youth living in rural areas, and addressing

constraints created by distance, lack of educational facilities and social or economic barriers;

[(c) Take special action to reduce the drop-out rate at all levels of education through increased relevance and quality education, and to facilitate the access of school leavers to sustainable livelihood;

[(d) Encourage awareness-raising campaigns and other actions developed and implemented by youth that are aimed at promoting the appreciation by youth of historical, natural and cultural heritage and at increasing their consciousness of the environmental values and environmental implications of their consumption and behavioral choices, especially those related to sustainable human settlements development.]

[90 ter. In order to promote disability-sensitive planning and management of human settlements, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should:

[(a) Promote the adoption of laws, by-laws, standards, and norms and develop planning guidelines and programmes that take into consideration the specific needs of persons with disabilities, including the chronically ill, in all planning, development and decision-making in relation to human settlements;

[(b) Promote representative structures, ensuring full and equal opportunities for participation of persons with disabilities;

[(c) Promote equal access to all levels of education for persons with disabilities;

[(d) Generate and disseminate disaggregated data, while ensuring that such statistics are collected, compiled, analysed and presented by age, sex and work status; set up monitoring mechanisms in government structures and integrate the results into mainstream policies for sustainable human settlements developments;

[(e) Recognize that people with disabilities are experts in their own housing and community requirements and should be decision-makers, designers and implementers of them;

[(f) Enhance community awareness of health care issues facing persons with disabilities, such as physical and sexual abuse and substance abuse, and design appropriate community responses;

[(g) Develop policy and guidelines and provide services that would enable persons with disabilities to be housed in community-based settings;

[(h) Develop and implement programmes that enable people with disabilities to have an equal opportunity to realize an income sufficient to attain an adequate standard of living;

[(i) Consider in the planning process that persons with disabilities are often involved in the informal sector and use their homes for business or market activities.]

91. To prevent and reduce violence and crime, especially at the local levels, Governments, in partnership with all stakeholders, should:

(a) Design, create and maintain livable human settlements that encourage the use of public spaces as centres of community life so that they do not become places for criminal activity;

[(a bis.) Guarantee basic education to all;]

[(a ter.) Assist crime prevention through social development by finding ways to help communities deal with the underlying factors that undermine community safety and result in crime, including by addressing poverty and inequality as the two basic components of the social development approach;]

(b) Encourage youth and children, in particular street children, to become stakeholders in their own future and their community's future through education, recreation, and job training and counselling that can attract private sector investment and support from non-profit organizations;

(b bis.) Enhance women's safety in communities through the promotion of the gender perspective in crime prevention policies and programmes by increasing in those responsible for implementing these policies the knowledge and understanding of the causes, consequences and mechanisms of violence against women;

(c) Establish programmes designed to improve the skills of local leadership in group facilitation, conflict resolution and intervention;

(d) As appropriate, promote personal security and reduce fear by improving police services, making them more accountable to the communities they serve, and by encouraging and facilitating, whenever appropriate, the formation of lawful community-based crime prevention measures and systems;

(e) Provide accessible, affordable, impartial, prompt and humane local systems of justice by, inter alia, facilitating and strengthening, where appropriate, existing traditional institutions and procedures for the resolution of disputes and conflicts;

(e bis.) Encourage the establishment of programmes and projects based upon voluntary participation, especially of children, youth and older persons, to prevent violence, including violence in the home, and crime;

(e ter.) Take concerted and urgent action to dismantle international and national sex trafficking networks.

92. To protect the vulnerable and disadvantaged people, Governments at the appropriate levels, in partnerships with all stakeholders, should work together to:

(a) Adopt integrated, transparent and gender-sensitive environmental social and economic policies and programmes for distressed areas and for areas characterized by social exclusion;

(b) Facilitate the participation of local organizations, including elder councils, women's groups, people's movements, youth groups, children's groups, and organizations of people with disabilities and others based in the community, in the decision-making processes concerning social welfare programmes;

(c) Promote and establish operational partnerships with social welfare and community development initiatives;

(d) Improve the planning and design of human settlements so as to respond specifically to the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged people, especially persons with disabilities.

[3 bis. Population and sustainable development

[92 bis. The quality of life and the activities within human settlements are closely interrelated with population dynamics such as growth, structure and distribution of population. Population movements within and between countries, including the very rapid growth of cities, and the unbalanced regional distribution of population need to be considered to ensure the sustainability of human settlements. In order to address population issues affecting human settlements and to fully integrate the demographic concerns into human settlements policies, Governments at all appropriate levels should:

[(a) Ensure that population factors are appropriately addressed within decision-making processes, especially those dealing with urban/regional planning and management, infrastructure and basic-services provision or other related policies;

[(b) Where necessary, set up or enhance databases and conduct data collection and analysis to provide baseline information that can be used to better plan for population growth in cities, towns and villages;

[(c) Increase awareness, knowledge and understanding of the impact of population on human settlements development at all levels of society through public information campaigns, education and communication efforts on health, family planning, as well as consumption and production patterns consistent with sustainable development.]

4. Environmentally sustainable[, livable] and healthy human settlements

93. [Sustainable human settlements depend on the creation of a better environment for human health and well-being, which will improve the living conditions of people and decrease disparities in their quality of life. People are entitled to a healthy and productive life; furthermore, improved health can also contribute more to economic and social development.]

(alternative)

[A better environment for human health and well-being is essential for sustainable human settlements. People are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature. People with improved health can contribute more to economic and social development.]

The health of the population depends at least as much on the control of environmental causes of poor health as on clinical responses to disease. Children's well-being is a particularly reliable indicator for healthy urban environments. Measures to prevent ill health and disease are as important as the availability of appropriate medical treatment and care. It is, therefore, essential to take a holistic approach to health, whereby both prevention and care are placed within the context of the environmental policy, supported by effective management systems and plans of action incorporating targets that reflect local needs and capacities. [Education for all is a fundamental requirement for enabling women and men, young and old, to gain from improved practices and make use of and demand appropriate infrastructure and health services.]

94. Health problems related to adverse environmental conditions, including a lack of access to safe water and sanitation, inadequate waste management, poor drainage, air pollution, and exposure to excessive noise levels, as well as ineffective and inadequate health services, exact a heavy toll on the quality of life and the overall contribution to society of millions of people. They may also aggravate social tension and inequity and increase the vulnerability of people to the effects of disasters. [Environmental degradation may have a disproportionate effect on children, people with low incomes, and indigenous people because of specific dietary habits, living conditions and occupational hazards.] An integrated approach to the provision of environmentally sound infrastructure in human settlements, particularly for the rural and urban poor, is an investment in sustainable human settlements development that can enhance the quality of life, reduce negative impacts on the environment, improve the overall health of a population, and reduce the burden of investment in curative health and poverty alleviation.

[95. Many pollution-related risks to health are particularly high in urban areas, as well as in low-income areas, because of higher concentrations of pollutants from, inter alia, industry, traffic, fumes from cooking and heating devices, overcrowding and inadequate solid and liquid waste management. Environmental risks in the home and the workplace may have a disproportionate impact on women's health because of women's different susceptibility to the toxic effects of various chemicals, given the nature of tasks that women frequently undertake. Environmental risks in the home may also have a disproportionate impact on children.]

95 bis. Many environmental contaminants and persistent organic pollutants, such as radioactive materials, work their way into the food chain and eventually into human beings, thus compromising the health of present and future generations.

[95 ter. Unsustainable and wasteful production and consumption patterns [particularly in industrialized countries] also lead to increasing problems in

waste management. It is essential to intensify efforts aimed at minimizing the production and discharge of waste, and at recycling and reuse as much as possible, and disposing of the remainder in an environmentally sound manner. This will require changes in attitudes and consumption patterns, as well as in the design of buildings and neighbourhoods as well as innovative, efficient and sustainable modalities for waste management.]

[95 quart. The design of the build environment is recognized as having an impact on people's well-being and behaviour and, thereby, on people's health. Good design in new housing and in upgrading and rehabilitation is important for the creation of sustainable living conditions. The large-scale development of high-rise housing can affect the micro-climate in an adverse way; it often has an alienating effect on social life; it reduces children's access to safe outdoor play; and it is difficult to maintain and operate such habitat. The large-scale development of high-rise housing requires proper maintenance, regular technical inspection, and social control and safety measures.]

Actions

96. To improve the health and well-being of all people throughout their life span, particularly people living in poverty, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities and in partnership with other stakeholders, should:

(a) Develop and implement national, subnational and local health plans or strategies and strengthen environmental health services to prevent, mitigate and respond to diseases and ill health from poor conditions in living and working environments and the conditions of people living in poverty;

[(a bis.) Continue work towards the Agenda 21 objective of achieving a 10 to 40 per cent improvement in health indicators by the year 2000;]

(b) Adopt measures to prevent and control air, water and soil pollution and to reduce noise levels, where appropriate, and develop and ensure access to appropriate preventive and curative health care systems in order to tackle related health problems;

(b bis.) Ensure adequate research to assess how and to what extent women and children are particularly susceptible or exposed to environmental degradation and hazards, including, as necessary, research and data collection on specific groups of women and children, particularly women with low income, indigenous women and women belonging to minorities;

(c) Improve shelter conditions so as to mitigate those health and safety risks, particularly risks to women, older persons, children and people with disabilities, which are associated with activities in the home;

(d) Build capacity at all levels for effective environmental health management;

(d bis.) Develop and implement programmes to ensure the availability of access to a full range of affordable, [good quality/basic] health care services for women [throughout their life span, including reproductive health care];

(d ter.) Develop, where appropriate, criteria for maximum permitted safe noise exposure levels and promote noise assessment control as part of environmental health programmes;

(e) Raise awareness of the interdependencies between the environment and health and develop within communities the knowledge, attitudes and practices needed to improve personal and community health, with special attention to hygiene;

[(e bis.) Promote, where appropriate, planning and good design in human settlements, both in new developments and in upgrading and rehabilitation, while emphasizing aesthetic qualities as well as sound and sustainable technical and functional qualities, enriching and enlightening the overall quality of life of the people;]

(f) Establish processes to increase the exchange of information, experience and technical assistance among national, subnational and local governments and across sectors for environmental health improvements;

[(f bis.) Ensure the provision, through the primary health-care system, of universal access of couples and individuals to appropriate and affordable preventative services with respect to sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS];

(g) Promote safe and healthy workplace conditions for men and women.

97. To improve environmental conditions and reduce industrial and domestic waste and other forms of health risks in human settlements, Governments at the appropriate levels and in partnership with all stakeholders should:

(a) Develop and implement national and local [sustainable development plans and] policies and specific cross-sectoral programmes addressing all relevant chapters of Agenda 21; they should be action-oriented and have clear targets and schedules;

(b) Develop laws and policies that specify appropriate ambient environmental quality levels and set targets for environmental improvements and identify instruments for their achievement appropriate to national and subnational priorities and conditions;

(c) Establish, equip and build capacity for monitoring and evaluating compliance with environmental regulations and effectiveness of enforcement at all levels;

[(d) Set environmental standards so as to facilitate the selection and development of appropriate technologies and their appropriate use;]

[(d bis.) Identify and address, as appropriate, the disproportionately high and adverse effects of policies and programmes on the human health or the environment of the poor, minorities and other vulnerable populations;]

(e) Provide incentives and disincentives to promote the use of clean production and energy- and water-saving processes and technologies that, among other things, can increase economic opportunities in the area of environmental technology, environmental clean-up and environmentally friendly products and can improve the attractiveness and competitiveness of human settlements for economic investments;

(f) Provide guidelines and training for the application of procedures for the assessment of environmental health impacts;

[(g) Undertake strategic environmental and environmental impact assessments for development projects that may significantly affect the quality of the environment;]

(h) Support mechanisms for consultations and partnerships among stakeholders to prepare and implement local environmental plans and local Agenda 21's and specific cross-sectoral environmental health programmes;

(i) Raise awareness of environmental issues and develop within communities the knowledge, attitudes and practices needed for sustainable human settlements development;

(j) In cooperation with the international community, promote the protection of the living environment and strive to restore contaminated land, air and water to levels acceptable for sustainable human settlements.

[98. Recognizing the need for an integrated approach to the provision of those environmental services and policies that are essential for human life, Governments, at the appropriate levels and in partnership with other stakeholders, should:

(aa) Incorporate the following principles and strategies in developing this integrated approach: [the precautionary principle], the ecosystem approach, pollution prevention, carrying capacity, and ecological footprint;

(a) Promote practices and consumption patterns that will conserve and protect freshwater and saltwater resources and top soil, as well as air and soil quality;

(a bis.) Ensure that clean water is available and accessible to all human settlements by the year 2000 through, inter alia, the adoption and improvement of technology, and ensure that environmental protection and conservation plans are designed and implemented to restore polluted water systems and rebuild damaged watersheds;

(b) Manage supply and demand for water in an effective manner that provides for the basic requirements of human settlements development, while paying due regard to the carrying capacity of natural ecosystems;

(b bis.) Dispose, within both rural and urban areas by the year 2025, of all sewage, waste waters and solid wastes in a manner in conformity with national or international environmental quality guidelines;

(c) Promote environmental protection and public health by proper treatment and the recycling and re-use of environmentally-compatible sanitation and treatment/disposal of waste water and solid waste;

(c bis.) Make a concerted effort to reduce the generation of wastes and waste products by, inter alia, setting national and local goals for the packaging of wastes;

(d) Develop criteria and methodologies for the assessment of environmental impacts and resource requirements at the local level throughout the life cycle of products and processes;

(d bis.) Develop and implement legal, fiscal and administrative mechanisms to achieve integrated ecosystem management;

(e) Establish mechanisms to ensure transparent, accountable and cost-effective management and maintenance of infrastructure.]

[98 bis. In order to promote a healthy environment that will continue to support sustainable human settlements for current and future generations, Governments, at the appropriate levels in partnership with all relevant stakeholders, should:

[(a) Promote the conservation and sustainable use of urban and peri-urban biodiversity, including forests, local habitats and species biodiversity; the protection of biodiversity should be included within local sustainable development planning activities;

[(b) Protect existing forest resources and promote afforestation around and within human settlements in order to fulfil basic needs relating to energy, construction, recreation, and food security;

[(c) Reduce the degradation of the marine environment emanating from land-based activities, including municipal, industrial and agricultural wastes and run-off, which have a pernicious impact on the most productive areas of the marine environment;

[(d) Ensure that children have access to the natural world on a daily basis through free play outdoors and establish education programmes to help children investigate their community environments, including their natural ecosystems;

[(e) Ensure adequate opportunity for public participation by all stakeholders at all levels of environmental decision-making.]

[98 ter. Water resources management in human settlements presents an outstanding challenge of sustainable development. It combines the challenge of security for all the basic human need of a reliable supply of safe drinking water and meeting the competing demands from industry and agriculture, which are

crucial to economic development and food security, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their water needs.

Meeting this challenge requires an integrated approach to water resources management that takes cognizance of the links between water, sanitation and health, between the economy and the environment, and between cities and their hinterland, and harmonizes land-use planning and housing policies with water sector policies and ensures a comprehensive and coherent approach to setting and enforcing realistic standards. A strong political commitment, cooperation across disciplines and sectors, and an active partnership of all stakeholders will be essential to integrated water resources management. To this end, Governments, at the appropriate levels, and in partnership with other stakeholders, should:

[(a) Pursue policies for water resources management that are guided by the broader consideration of sustainability (economic, social and environmental) of human settlements at large, rather than by sectoral considerations alone;

[(b) Promote the forging of partnerships between public and private sectors and between institutions at the national and local levels so as to improve the allocative efficiency of investments in water and sanitation and to increase the operational efficiency;

[(c) Support responsible agencies to develop their capacity for assessing the effective demand of communities and incorporating such demand in the planning of environmental infrastructure services;

[(d) Implement institutional and legal reforms necessary to remove the current overlaps and redundancies in the functions and jurisdictions of multiple sectoral institutions, and to ensure effective coordination among these institutions in the delivery of services;

[(e) Introduce economic instruments and regulatory measures to reduce wastage of water and encourage recycling and reuse of waste water;

[(f) Carry out tenure regularization in informal settlements to achieve the minimum level of legal recognition required for the provision of basic services;

[(g) Remove the legal obstacles denying women the security of tenure and credit that are essential for gaining access to basic services;

[(h) Take into consideration the special needs of women in making technological choices in respect of the level of and access to basic services.]

[99. In a globalizing economy, the increasing occurrence of transboundary pollution and the transfer across national borders and regions of technologies hazardous to the environment represent a serious threat to the environmental conditions of human settlements and the health of their inhabitants. Governments should therefore cooperate to develop further bilateral and multilateral legal mechanisms to implement Principle 13 of the Rio Declaration regarding "liability and compensation for adverse effects of environmental

damage caused by activities within their jurisdiction or control to areas beyond their jurisdiction". In this context, States should be guided by Principle 16 of the Rio Declaration, which encourages the approach that the polluter should in principle bear the cost of pollution. The international community, international organizations and Governments should also seek appropriate preventive measures in cases of clear risk of major environmental accidents with transboundary effects.]

99 bis. In seeking to prevent transboundary pollution and minimize its impacts on human settlements when it does occur, Governments should cooperate to develop appropriate mechanisms for assessing the environmental impact of proposed [projects and activities] that are likely to have [significant adverse/gravely hazardous] impacts on the environment, including an evaluation of comments provided by other potentially affected countries. Governments should also cooperate to develop and implement mechanisms for prior and timely notification, exchange of information and consultation, and mitigation of the potential adverse effects regarding those [projects and activities] taking into account existing international agreements and instruments.

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OUTCOME OF THE CONFERENCE: DRAFT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND COMMITMENTS AND GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

C. Sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world (paras. 100-128)

(Section IV (Global Plan of Action: Strategies for Implementation) of the draft Habitat agenda)

Text submitted by Working Group II on the basis of negotiations held on document A/CONF.165/PC.3/4

5. Sustainable energy use

100. The use of energy is essential in urban centres for transportation, industrial production, and household and office activities. Current dependence on fossil-fuel-based energy sources in most urban centres leads to climate change, air pollution, and consequential environmental and human health problems, and [may] represent a serious threat to sustainable development. Sustainable energy production and use can be enhanced by encouraging energy efficiency, by such means as pricing policies, fuel switching, alternative energy, mass transit, and public awareness. Human settlements and energy policies should be actively coordinated.

Actions

101. In order to promote sustainable energy use, Governments, at the appropriate levels and in partnership with the private sector, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, and consumer groups, should, as appropriate:

(a) Promote solutions to urban and rural planning and design that are conducive to efficient uses of energy and that pay due attention to end users and their attitudes and practices;

(b) Introduce energy-pricing policies and regulatory measures to promote the use of renewable and safe sources of energy and to improve the efficiency of energy use in human settlements, while ensuring that people living in poverty and their families are not disadvantaged;

(c) Promote energy-efficient systems, for example, by introducing or supporting innovative energy-efficient measures in the generation, distribution and use of energy, such as combined heating and cooling systems that make use of waste heat recovery, and co-generation of heating and electricity;

(d) Encourage and research, development and use of non-motorized or low-energy transport systems and the use of renewable energy sources and technologies, such as solar, wind and biomass energy;

(e) Encourage countries, in particular developing countries, to cooperate in exchanging knowledge, experience and know-how in the phasing out of lead gasoline, including through the use of biomass ethanol as an environmentally sound substitute;

(f) Introduce or amend user charges and/or other measures to promote the efficient use of household energy;

(g) Stimulate, through fiscal incentives or other measures, and adopt energy-efficient and environmentally sound technologies in the rehabilitation of existing industries and services and in the construction of new ones;

(h) Support programmes for the reduction and neutralization of emissions of polluting gases, originating in the generation, transportation and use of energy;

(i) Provide for public education and media campaigns to encourage recycling, reuse and reduced energy consumption;

(j) Encourage the use of solar heating and cooling and electric technologies, energy efficient design, ventilation, and improved insulation of buildings to reduce the consumption of energy in buildings;

(k) Encourage the use of safe industrial and agricultural waste products and other types of low-energy and recycled building materials in construction;

(l) Encourage and promote the development and dissemination of new and environmentally sound technologies, including the reduction of metal compounds as part of transportation fuels, and good practices in the use of energy.

6. Sustainable transport and communication systems

102. Transport and communication systems are the key to the movement of goods, people, information, and ideas, and to access to markets, employment, schools and other facilities and land use, both within cities and between cities, and in rural and other remote areas. The transportation sector is a major consumer of non-renewable energy and of land and is a major contributor to pollution, congestion and accidents. Integrated transport and land-use policy and planning can reduce the ill effects of current transport systems. The poor, women, children, youth, older persons, and people with disabilities are particularly disadvantaged by the lack of accessible, affordable, safe, and efficient public transport systems.

102 bis. Developments in communications technologies can have a significant impact on economic activity and human settlement patterns. It is important for the potential impacts to be addressed so as to ensure that maximum benefits accrue to the community and to reduce any adverse outcomes in relation to access to services.

103. Managing transport in human settlements should be done in a way that promotes good access for all to places of work, social interaction and leisure and facilitates important economic activities, including obtaining food and other necessities of life. This should be done while reducing the negative effects of transport on the environment. Transport-system priorities should be given to reducing unnecessary travel through appropriate land-use and communication policies, developing transport policies that emphasize mobility alternatives other than the automobile, developing alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles, improving the environmental performance of existing modes, and adopting appropriate pricing and other policies and regulations.

103 bis. Non-motorized transport is a major mode of mobility, particularly for low-income, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. One structural measure to counteract the socio-economic marginalization of these groups is to foster their mobility by promoting affordable, efficient and energy-saving modes of transport.

104-106. [Text to be further negotiated]

7. Conservation and rehabilitation of historical and cultural heritage

107. To promote historical and cultural continuity and to encourage broad civic participation in all kinds of cultural activities, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should:

(a) Identify and document, whenever possible, the historical and cultural significance of areas, sites, landscapes, ecosystems, buildings, and other objects and manifestations and establish conservation goals relevant for the cultural and spiritual development of society;

(b) Promote the awareness of such heritage in order to highlight its value and the need for its conservation and the financial viability of rehabilitation;

(c) Encourage and support local heritage and cultural institutions, associations and communities in their conservation and rehabilitation efforts and inculcate in children and youth an adequate sense of belonging to such a heritage;

(d) Promote adequate financial and legal support for the effective protection of the cultural heritage;

(e) Promote education and training in traditional skills in all disciplines appropriate to the conservation and promotion of heritage;

(f) Promote the active role of older persons as custodians of cultural heritage, knowledge, trades, and skills.

108. To integrate development with conservation and rehabilitation goals, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should:

(a) Recognize that the historical and cultural heritage is an important asset and strive to maintain the social, cultural and economic viability of historically and culturally important sites and communities;

(b) Preserve the inherited historical settlement and landscape forms, while protecting the integrity of the historic urban fabric and guiding new construction in historic areas;

(c) Provide adequate legal and financial support for the implementation of conservation and rehabilitation activities, in particular through adequate training of specialized human resources;

(d) Promote incentives for such conservation and rehabilitation to public, private and non-profit developers;

(e) Promote community-based action for the conservation, rehabilitation, re-generation, and maintenance of neighbourhoods;

(f) Support public and private sector and community partnerships for the rehabilitation of inner-cities and neighbourhoods;

(g) Ensure the incorporation of environmental concerns in conservation and rehabilitation projects;

(h) Take measures to reduce acid rain and other types of environmental pollution that damage buildings and other items of cultural and historical value;

(i) Adopt human settlements planning policies, including transport and other infrastructure policies, that avoid environmental degradation of historic and cultural areas;

(j) Ensure the incorporation of accessibility concerns for people with disabilities in conservation and rehabilitation projects.

8. Improving urban economies

109. Urban economies are integral to the process of economic transformation and development. They are a prerequisite for the creation of a diversified economic base capable of generating employment opportunities. Many new jobs will need to be created in urban areas. Cities currently generate more than half of national economic activities world wide. If other factors, such as population growth of and migration to cities, are addressed effectively through, inter alia, urban planning and control of the negative impacts of urbanization, cities could develop the capacity to maintain their productivity, to improve the living conditions of their residents and to manage natural resources in an ecologically sustainable way. Industry, together with trade and services, provides the main impetus to this process.

110. Cities have traditionally served as economic centres and have become the primary providers of services. As engines of economic growth and development they function within a network of supporting economic activities located in their surrounding peri-urban and rural areas. For this reason, specific actions also need to be taken to develop and maintain efficient and affordable transport, information and communications systems and linkages with other urban centres and with rural areas and to seek reasonably balanced patterns of development, both geographically and economically. Rapid changes in production technologies and in trade and consumption patterns will lead to changes in urban spatial structures that, notwithstanding their nature, need to be addressed.

111. Economic development and the provision of services can be enhanced through improved human settlements activities such as urban revitalization, construction, upgrading and maintenance of infrastructural facilities, and building and civil works. These activities are also important growth factors in the generation of employment, income and efficiency in other sectors of the economy. In turn, in combination with appropriate environmental protection policies, they result in the sustainable improvement of the living conditions of city residents as well as of the efficiency and productivity of countries.

Actions

112. To establish an effective financial base for urban development, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, in cooperation with trade unions, consumer organizations, business, industry, trade, and the financial sector, including the cooperatively organized business sector and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, should:

(a) Formulate and implement financial policies that stimulate a broad range of urban employment opportunities;

(b) Encourage the formation of new public-private sector partnerships for institutions that are privately owned and managed but public in their function and purpose, and promote transparency and accountability of their operation.

113. To provide opportunities for productive employment and private investment, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, in consultation with workers' and employers' organizations, chambers of commerce, industry, trade, consumer organizations, professional associations, and the financial sector, including the cooperative sector, and in the context of comprehensive urban planning, should:

(a) Implement sustainable urban development policies that take account of and respond effectively to the needs of locally owned enterprises, and are not detrimental to the natural and human environment;

(b) Facilitate access to all levels of education and training;

(c) Promote an adequate supply and the environmentally sound allocation of sufficiently serviced land for the needs of the business community, with due regard to the needs of small and medium-sized enterprises;

(d) Offer opportunities for urban economic activities by facilitating the access of new and emerging businesses, and small and medium-sized enterprises, including the informal sector, to credit and finance, and by streamlining legal and administrative procedures;

(e) Facilitate, where appropriate, the opportunity for urban horticulture;

(f) Assist informal-sector enterprises to become more productive and progressively integrated into the formal economy;

(g) Consider designating select areas for redevelopment within urban centres by providing packages of fiscal and financial incentives along with appropriate regulatory arrangements and the development of partnerships.

[114. To provide opportunities for small businesses and for the micro-enterprise and cooperative sectors, Governments at all appropriate levels, including local authorities, in consultation with non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, and financial and vocational training institutions, should, as appropriate:

[(a) Facilitate the extension of protection of human rights in the field of labour to the informal sector through the implementation of relevant conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in the areas of freedom of association, discrimination, forced labour, and child labour;

[(b) Facilitate the progressive extension of measures of regulation into the informal sector, guided by the conventions and recommendations of ILO;

[(c) Institutionalize and strengthen programmes that integrate credit finance, vocational training and programmes for the transfer of technology in support of the small enterprise, micro-enterprise and cooperative sectors;

[(d) Encourage fair treatment of the informal sector and encourage links between financial institutions and non-governmental organizations that support the informal sector where it exists;

[(e) Integrate, where appropriate, the needs of the growing informal sector within the urban planning, design and management systems and encourage their transition to the formal sector.]

115. To strengthen urban economies so they may be competitive in a globalizing economy, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, in consultation with all stakeholders, should, inter alia:

(a) Improve education and enhance job training in order to improve the quality of the local work-force;

(b) Support the restructuring of local industries, where appropriate, and develop urban infrastructure and services, promote a reliable, efficient and environmentally sound supply of energy and enhance telecommunication networks;

(c) Review and revise, as appropriate, the regulatory framework in order to attract private investment;

(d) Prevent crime and enhance public safety in order to make urban areas more attractive for economic, social and cultural activities;

(e) Encourage sound financial practices at all levels of Government;

(f) Promote legislative action that may be necessary to implement the above.

116. To alleviate the adverse impacts of measures for structural and economic transition, Governments at the appropriate levels, including, where appropriate, local authorities, should:

(a) Promote an integrated approach by addressing the social, economic and environmental consequences of reforms on human settlements development needs;

(b) Promote the integrated functioning of housing markets so as to avoid segregation of the social housing sector;

(c) Implement appropriate basic social programmes and adequate resource allocation, in particular those measures affecting people living in poverty, people with disabilities, other vulnerable segments of society, micro-enterprises and other small businesses;

(d) Review the impact of structural adjustment on social development by paying particular attention to gender-sensitive assessments;

(e) Design policies to promote more equitable and enhanced access to income and resources;

(f) Support, as appropriate, public and private enterprises in their efforts to adapt to the changing requirements of technological and human resources development.

9. Balanced development of settlements in rural regions

117. Urban and rural areas are interdependent economically, socially and environmentally. At the turn of the century, a substantial proportion of the world's population will continue to live in rural settlements, particularly in developing countries. In order to achieve a more sustainable future for the earth, these rural settlements need to be valued and supported. Insufficient infrastructure and services, lack of environmentally sound technology, and pollution resulting from the adverse impacts of unsustainable industrialization and urbanization contribute significantly to the degradation of the rural environment. Additionally, the lack of employment opportunities in rural areas increases rural-to-urban migration and results in a loss of human capacity in rural communities. Policies and programmes for the sustainable development of rural areas that integrate rural regions into the national economy require strong local and national institutions for the planning and management of human settlements that place an emphasis on rural-urban linkages and treat villages and cities as two ends of a human settlements continuum.

118. Rural populations, including indigenous people, play an important role in ensuring food security and in sustaining the social and ecological balance over large tracts of land in many nations and thus contribute significantly to the task of protecting biodiversity and fragile ecosystems and to the sustainable use of biological resources.

119. To promote the sustainable development of rural settlements and to reduce rural-to-urban migration, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should:

(a) Promote the active participation of all stakeholders, including those in isolated and remote communities, in ensuring the integrated consideration of the environmental, social and economic objectives of rural development efforts;

(b) Take appropriate measures to improve the living and working conditions in regional urban centres, small towns and rural service centres;

(c) Foster a sustainable and diversified agricultural system in order to have vibrant rural communities;

(d) Provide infrastructure, services and incentives for investment in rural areas;

(e) Promote education and training in rural areas to facilitate employment and the use of appropriate technology.

120. To promote the utilization of new and improved technologies and appropriate traditional practices in rural settlements development, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, in cooperation with the private sector, should:

(a) Improve access to information on agricultural production, marketing and pricing in rural and remote areas by using, inter alia, advanced and accessible communication technologies;

(b) In cooperation with farmers' organizations, women's groups and other stakeholders, promote research and the dissemination of research findings in traditional, new and improved technologies for, inter alia, agriculture, aquaculture, forestry and agro-forestry.

121. In establishing policies for sustainable regional development and management, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should:

(a) Promote education and training programmes and establish procedures for the full participation of rural and indigenous people in the setting of priorities for balanced and ecologically viable regional development;

(b) Make full use of geographic information systems and environmental assessment methods for the preparation of environmentally sound regional development policies;

(c) Implement regional and rural development plans and programmes based on needs and economic viability, [consistent with the goal of sustainable development];

(d) Establish an efficient and transparent system for the allocation of resources to rural areas based on people's needs, [consistent with the goal of sustainable development].

122. To strengthen [sustainable development and] employment opportunities in impoverished rural areas, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should:

(a) Stimulate rural development by enhancing employment opportunities, providing educational and health facilities and services, improving housing, strengthening technical infrastructure, and encouraging rural enterprises and sustainable agriculture;

(b) Establish priorities for regional infrastructure investments based on opportunities for economic return, social equity and environmental quality;

(c) Encourage the private sector to develop and strengthen contract-based wholesale markets and marketing intermediaries for rural products so as to improve and/or establish a cash-flow and futures contract economy in rural areas;

(d) Promote equitable and efficient access to markets as well as, where appropriate, pricing and payment systems for rural products, especially of food items consumed in urban areas;

(d bis) Promote products from rural areas in urban markets and rural service centres by improving the access to market information and distribution centres and networks;

(e) Reduce significantly or eliminate environmentally harmful subsidies and other programmes, such as those which stimulate the excessive use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers, and price control or subsidy systems that perpetuate unsustainable practices and production systems in rural and agricultural economies.

123. An integrated approach is required to promote balanced and mutually supportive urban-rural development. To achieve this objective, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, with the support of the relevant international and regional institutions, should:

(a) Provide an appropriate legal, fiscal and organizational framework that is suitable to strengthen the networks of small- and medium-sized settlements in rural areas;

(a bis) Facilitate the development of efficient communication and distribution infrastructure for the exchange of information, labour, goods, services and capital between urban and rural areas;

(b) Promote broad cooperation among local communities to find integrated solutions for land-use, transport and environmental problems in an urban-rural context;

(c) Pursue a participatory approach to balanced and mutually supportive urban-rural development, based on a continuous dialogue among the stakeholders involved in urban-rural development.

10. Disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and post-disaster rehabilitation capabilities

124. The impact on people and human settlements of natural and human-made disasters is on the increase. Disasters are frequently caused by vulnerabilities created by human actions, such as uncontrolled or inadequately planned human settlements, lack of general infrastructure and the occupation of disaster-prone areas. Armed conflicts also have consequences that effect human

settlements and the country as a whole and call for specific rehabilitation and reconstruction processes that may necessitate international involvement. The impact of such disasters and emergencies is especially severe in countries where preparedness and response capacities are ineffective in dealing with such situations.

125. The most efficient and effective systems and capacity for post-disaster response are usually provided through volunteer contributions and local authority actions at the neighbourhood level. These can operate independently and irrespective of reduced, damaged or destroyed infrastructure or capacity elsewhere. Specific actions are also required at the appropriate levels of Government, including local authorities, in partnership with the private sector and in close coordination with all community groups, to put into place disaster preparedness and response capacities that are coordinated in their planning but flexible in their implementation. The reduction of vulnerability and an increase in the capacity to respond to disasters is directly related to the degree of decentralized access to information, communication and decision-making and the control of resources. National and international cooperation networks can facilitate rapid access to specialist expertise, which can help to provide early warning of impending disasters and to mitigate their effects.

Actions

126. In improving natural and human-made disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation and response, Governments at the appropriate level, including local authorities, and in close consultation and cooperation with such entities as insurance companies, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, organized communities, the academic, health and scientific community, should:

(a) Develop, adopt and enforce appropriate norms and by-laws for land-use, building and planning standards that are based on professionally established hazard and vulnerability assessments;

(a bis) Ensure the participation in disaster planning and management of all stakeholders, including women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities, in recognition of their particular vulnerability to human-made and natural disasters;

(b) Encourage continued mobilization of domestic and international resources for disaster reduction activities;

(c) Promote and disseminate information on disaster-resistant construction methods and technologies for buildings and public works in general;

(d) Devise programmes to facilitate, where possible, voluntary relocation and access by all people to less disaster-prone areas;

(e) Develop training programmes on disaster-resistant construction methods for designers, contractors and builders. Some programmes should be directed particularly to small enterprises, which build the great majority of housing and other small buildings in the developing countries;

(f) Take measures to upgrade, where necessary, the resistance of important infrastructure, lifelines and critical facilities, in particular where damage can cause secondary disasters and/or constrain emergency relief operations.

[126 bis. As a consequence of the development and testing of nuclear weapons, there is a need for the safe resettlement of displaced populations and the restoration of economic activity to the effected areas, especially for small island developing States and coastal regions. Noting the special responsibility towards those people of the former United Nations Trust Territories who have been adversely affected as a result of the nuclear-weapons tests conducted during the period of the Trusteeship, all Governments and international organizations that have expertise in the field of cleanup and disposal of radioactive containments should consider giving appropriate assistance as may be required for remedial purposes in areas affected by radioactive contamination from nuclear weapons programmes.]

127. With respect to mitigation of disasters, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, in partnership with all stakeholders, should, as appropriate:

(a) Establish a comprehensive information system that identifies and assesses the risks involved in disaster-prone areas and integrate it into human settlements planning and design;

(b) Promote and support low-cost, attainable solutions and innovative approaches to address critical risks of vulnerable communities, including, inter alia, through risk mapping and community-focused vulnerability reduction programmes;

(c) Introduce a clear delineation of roles and responsibilities of, and communication channels between, the various key functions and actors in pre-event disaster management, mitigation and preparedness activities, such as hazard and risk assessment, monitoring, prediction, prevention, relief, resettlement and emergency response;

(d) Promote and encourage all parts of society to participate in disaster preparedness planning in areas such as water and food storage, and fuel and first-aid, and in disaster prevention through activities that build a culture of safety;

(e) Strengthen and/or develop global, regional, national, and local early-warning systems to alert populations to impending disasters.

127 bis. In order to prevent technological and industrial disasters, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, as appropriate, should:

(a) Pursue the objectives of prevention of major technological accidents and the limitation of their consequences, inter alia, through land use policies and the promotion of safe technology;

(b) Take the necessary measures in order to control the siting of new developments surrounding dangerous industrial activities that may be liable to increase the risk of the effects of a major accident by appropriate consultation procedures to facilitate the implementation of the policy established under subparagraph (a) above;

(c) Introduce a clear definition of roles and responsibilities and of communication channels between the various key functions of disaster preparedness and prevention, including assessment, monitoring, prediction, prevention, relief, resettlement, and emergency response;

(d) Promote and encourage broad-based participation in disaster preparedness activities by giving to the population living in the surroundings of a dangerous activity adequate and repetitive information on the potential hazards;

(e) Strengthen and/or develop global, regional, and local early-warning systems to alert populations in case of a major technological accident.

128. In preparing for and implementing post-disaster relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction, and resettlement, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, in partnership with all stakeholders, should:

(a) Establish or strengthen disaster preparedness and response systems that clearly define roles and responsibilities of, and communication channels between, the various functions and actors in disaster preparedness, and in post-event disaster management, including emergency management, relief and rehabilitation;

(b) Devise drill exercise programmes for emergency response and relief, and promote research on the technical, social and economic aspects of post-disaster reconstruction and adopt effective strategies and guidelines for post-disaster reconstruction;

(c) Establish reliable communications and response and decision-making capabilities, including at the national, local and community levels;

(d) Establish contingency plans, management and assistance systems, and arrangements for rehabilitation, reconstruction and resettlement;

(e) Strengthen scientific and engineering capacities for damage assessment and monitoring and for special rehabilitation and reconstruction techniques;

(f) Support all relevant stakeholders in carrying out relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities;

(g) Identify and support approaches to cope with the urgent shelter requirements of returnees and internally displaced persons;

(h) Identify approaches to ensure continuous attendance in schools;

(i) Support work for immediate removal of anti-personnel landmines following the cessation of armed conflict;

(j) Ensure that the particular needs of women, children, persons with disabilities and vulnerable groups are considered in all communications, rescue, relocation, rehabilitation, and reconstruction;

(k) Promote a cultural dimension in post-disaster rehabilitation processes.